

Reservoir Release Update

RECOMMENDATION:

None – item presented for informational purposes.

SUMMARY/DISCUSSION:

The Board of Directors receives monthly updates on the status of Agency reservoirs.

RESERVOIR ELEVATION / STORAGE: As of March 12, 2018, San Antonio Reservoir is at an elevation of approximately 721 feet mean sea level (msl), 106,300 acre-feet of storage. Nacimiento Reservoir is at elevation 754.05 feet msl, 165,091 acre-feet of storage. San Antonio Reservoir is currently at 32% of storage capacity and Nacimiento Reservoir is at 44% of capacity.

The Salinas River mouth remains closed to the ocean.

RESERVOIR RELEASES: The Agency is currently making minimum fisheries releases of 60 cfs from Nacimiento Reservoir and 10 cfs from San Antonio Reservoir in accordance with the Salinas Valley Water Project Biological Opinion (BO).

The adult steelhead upstream migration period identified in the BO extends from February 1 through March 31. To date, triggers for adult steelhead upstream migration releases have not been fully met. Agency staff will continue to monitor conditions and respond accordingly if triggers are met.

Conservation releases for Salinas Valley groundwater recharge and Salinas River Diversion Facility (SRDF) operations are scheduled to begin during the month of March. Staff will evaluate reservoir storage, rainfall, river conditions, and downstream irrigation demands daily and choose a start date with the goal of maximizing conservation release benefits to groundwater storage and the SRDF.

Minor fluctuations in release rates are not presented in this report but are documented in the Salinas Valley Water Project Annual Flow Reports.

Releases as of March 12, 2018:

- Nacimiento Reservoir: 60 cfs
- San Antonio Reservoir: 10 cfs

Total releases from both reservoirs to the Salinas River are approximately 70 cfs. The following “provisional” flows have been recorded by the USGS:

- Salinas River near Spreckels: 0 cfs
- Salinas River near Chualar: 0 cfs
- Salinas River at Soledad: 0 cfs
- Salinas River near Bradley: 75 cfs (steady)